

Gloucester

RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



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**WATCH THIS FACE
ANDY FROST
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW
SIMON AMOR
FANS EYE VIEW
DETAILS OF OUR
XMAS HOSPITALITY**

Baan



vs London Irish

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP FIXTURE
SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2002
KICK-OFF 3.00PM

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NIGEL'S NOTES...

Nigel Melville

Director of Rugby

It gives me great pleasure to welcome London Irish Players, Management and Supporters to Kingsholm for this afternoon's Zurich Premiership action.

Last weekend both teams faced tough challenges; London Irish beat Leicester whilst Gloucester beat a very combative Leeds Tykes. The result at Madejski Stadium was particularly pleasing for the London Irish team, who effectively climbed off the bottom of the table. The result also served to remind us that this year's Zurich Premiership programme is probably as competitive as it has ever been.

When today's teams met just a couple of weeks ago the result went Gloucester's way, it was a tough, physical game played in the right spirit, we expect today's game to follow a similar trend.

Last week's game against Leeds was as tough as we expected, Leeds learnt a lot of lessons last season, they are now a tough side to turn over, they may not be flash, but they work hard and proved difficult to beat.

One of last weekend's highlights was the return of so many Gloucester legends to Kingsholm to play for the Cherry Pickers side. The game against the Czech National team was in support of a very worthy cause; your support was appreciated by everyone. I personally believe that former players have a role to play in the future of the Club, I am keen to involve them in the playing side of the Club – they still have so much to offer.

“THE LESSON WAS SIMPLE, GET THE BASICS RIGHT AND RUGBY IS A WONDERFUL GAME TO PLAY AND WATCH.”

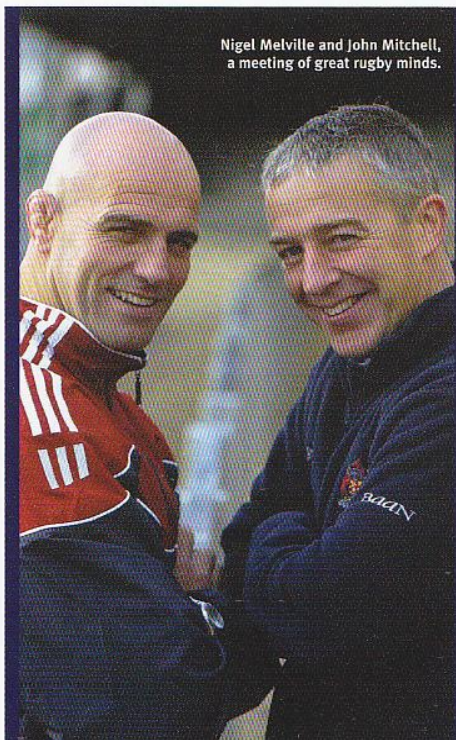
Talking of future plans it was a great pleasure to welcome the New Zealand U21 Youth team to

Kingsholm on Tuesday night. It is important that our young, developing players have a clear understanding of the levels that they are expected to achieve. The New Zealand team were a great barometer for our younger players. The lesson was simple, get the basics right and rugby is a wonderful game to play and watch. Thanks to everyone for supporting the teams, I am sure you enjoyed the quality of the player's on show.

With the November internationals behind us, I must congratulate Clive Woodward and his England team on their three wins against high calibre Southern Hemisphere opposition. The 'gap' may have closed but having had the pleasure of John Mitchell's company this week, I can assure you that the All Black team will be firing on all cylinders come the World Cup – there is no room for complacency!

The loss of Trevor Woodman (Neck) and James Simpson-Daniel (Glandular Fever) during this release period has been frustrating, both played significant roles in the November programme, they will surely be key members of the 2003 World Cup squad. As for our very own 'raging bull' Phil Vickery, he arrived back in great shape, 'Man of the Match' against South Africa and looking forward to getting back to business in the Premiership.

Thank you for your continued support, have a great afternoon and get behind your Cherry and White's! ■



Nigel Melville and John Mitchell, a meeting of great rugby minds.



CAPTAIN'S CORNER

Jake Boer

Team Captain

We were very disappointed with what happened at Leicester two weeks ago, for everyone involved it was very hard to swallow, because we let ourselves down.

It is one thing if you lose to a team that has played better than you and beaten you well, but we just felt that we didn't play well enough and didn't perform on the night.

But we bounced back. We had a good week last week, we analysed the Leicester game on Monday and put it behind us. We had a good build up to the Leeds game and we came out and played much better than the previous week and we got a very good result.

Leeds were a spirited side, you don't get to second for nothing. They may have been disappointed with the way they played but we were happy with the result.

We did well in a lot of areas that we didn't the week before, but there is still a lot to work on. We had a lot of possession and territory and probably could have done better. But that is the case every week. We always identify areas where we are strong but always have other things to work on.

We have looked at the video and we had a lot more opportunities to come away with points and we didn't. We did have an eighteen point winning margin at the end but it is always disappointing to see that we had opportunities to score and we didn't take them. But that is the way the game is and that is why you work on taking those opportunities.

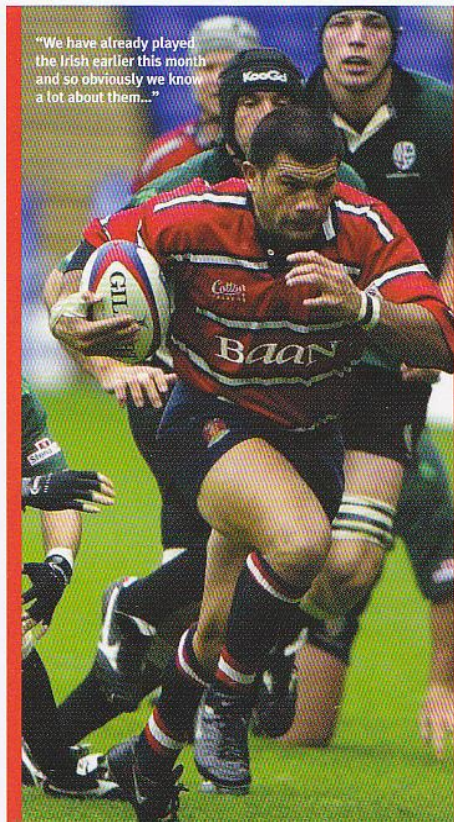
We identified that against Leicester our set piece was poor, if your set piece doesn't function, you are never going to get on to the front foot. Last week Dean Ryan focused a lot on our set piece just to give us more confidence and that was probably the biggest difference in the two recent games. Against Leeds our set piece was a lot better than it was at Leicester.

We have already played the Irish earlier this month and so obviously we know a lot about the Irish and what they do. I'm sure though that they will have a few things up their sleeve to change that and surprise us. It is certainly going to be a massive game because after beating Leicester, they are on the verge of something very big.

They will be in our faces all day long and it is important that we contain them and just play our own game.

"...WE ARE A CLUB THAT BELIEVES WE ARE GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH BUT WE STILL HAVE A LOT OF THINGS TO DO..."

At the Madejski Stadium we earned a massive victory but if you go into any game in the Premiership with the attitude that because you have already beaten a team, the next game will be an easy game you are kidding yourself; you can't go into any game with that attitude. They will be on a high, but we are a Club that believes we are going from strength to strength. However, as we still have a lot of things to do so we will not be going into the game with this attitude at all. Instead it is as big a game as any other this year - its a massive game for us. ■



The 'Watch This Face' feature returns this week as we try to introduce the next wave of Gloucester talent...

Today's subject will already be familiar to many of those in the ground as he has made quite an impression in the junior ranks for both Club and Country and he has been a regular starter in the United side this season.

Appropriately he was included in the twenty-two man, match day squad for the London Irish v Gloucester fixture at the Madejski Stadium earlier this month and after joining the Club's Academy programme in the summer, this meteoric rise is nothing short of Simpson-Daniel proportions.

Andy Frost, 'Frosty', is a product of the Rochford Rugby Club in Essex who he joined as a keen six year old. He progressed through the junior ranks under the watchful eye of Trevor Ashford and was spotted by the Gloucester Academy coaches after strong performances in the England U18 schools side.

Latterly, he was a pupil of the Greensward school and then joined King John's as a sixth former. Spotted by Bob Crooks, head of the Saracens Academy, he joined the Fez heads in 1997 as part of their original Academy players.

At the end of last season, at the end of his school boy career both Saracens and Gloucester tabled offers but after careful consideration Frost decided to swap his fez for a cherry and white shirt.

"My heart wasn't really in it towards the end of my time with Saracens so from the point of view of development and confidence I needed a new start and a new challenge. One of the reasons I have been playing well recently is that I consciously thought I had to prove myself to get into this side", says Frost.

Frost, it seems, has proved his point somewhat. In little over four months he has bridged the gap from schoolboy rugby to the fringes of the Gloucester 1st team squad with selection to the United and South England U21 development side. The progress he has made though has surprised no-one more than Frost himself. Who admits to having to pinch himself at times.

"It's been so fast that I haven't had chance to worry; everything has just flowed. As a player I think I have come on leaps and bounds to where I was six months ago. And I hope it continues".

"I was speaking to my dad on the phone the other day and I told him that I had been put up to the 1st team squad during the international release period and that I had been selected for South England U21. To be honest it hadn't sunk in because it had all happened so quickly", admits Frost.

His foray into the international set up was reasonably successful as the young Frost scored thirteen points in a 22-18 loss to France East. He kicked two penalties as well as converting his own try. It is a mark of the young man though that after the game he was more concerned with the two penalties he missed that could have won the game for his side.

Despite this promising international break through, Frost's attentions are focused much closer to home. Before he starts to look for international recognition he is determined to climb higher up the Gloucester ladder.

Frost is never one to rest on his laurels and is constantly looking for the next challenge or the next step forward.

"From a United point of view, obviously it was a huge step up and I was very nervous during the games, which is probably why I didn't really get involved as much as I normally do. I didn't look for the ball and didn't take the gaps I normally would. Now I have got a couple of games under my belt though I am more confident to do what I normally do", admits Frost.

"It is so different to playing school boys or U21. In the United side you just concentrate on your game and do the things you have to at the right time".

Being in the right place at the right time certainly aided Frost's progress to the 1st team squad. Nigel Melville promoted ten Academy players to the 1st team training squad during the international release period. As Tom Beim dropped out of the squad for the trip to Redding, Frost was drafted in at the eleventh hour.

"It has taken a number of weeks to break into this squad and have the confidence to step up and make the plays", admitted Frost.

"I found out on Saturday that I would be involved on Sunday. I had a mad panic trying to learn all the moves but they all made me feel very welcome. It was just like being in a team I had been in for weeks. I was nervous I was on the bench but it only sank in when we were warming up and all the Shed Heads were shouting for us, and the cameras were there. It's an experience I won't forget but it would have been nice to get on".

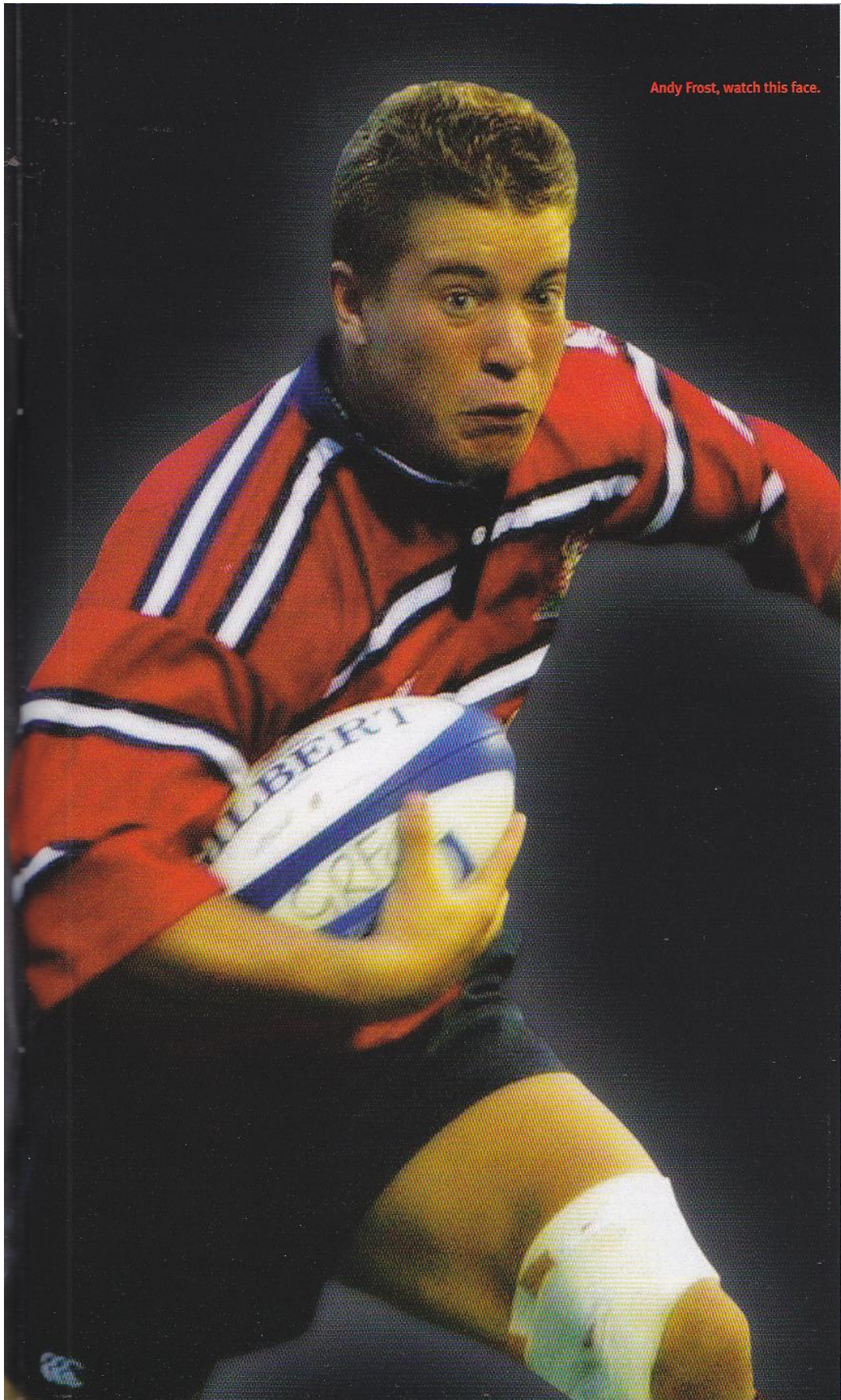
Frost, who is also starting his first year of a Multi Media degree at Gloucestershire University, is one of the first boys to be enrolled in the Gloucester England Rugby Academy. Frost has signified the role that this new development process has played in his progression.

"It's a complete set up. We now have the guidance that may have been lacking before and it's the little things that they help us out with. We are trying to juggle full time rugby with a full time degree. It's difficult to have two jobs. We are not typical students, our job is our rugby, and we need to take more time over that", said the young back.

As well as learning more about graphic designing and rugby, Frost has had to learn a lot of life skills to help support his dual role as a promising full-back or centre.

"It's fair enough cooking beans on toast or opening a can of soup, but we have so many demands on us physically that that is not enough. The social side of University does suffer a bit. If you have got what it takes to be a rugby player, you can't go out all the time", he admits.

At the start of the season Frost set himself the target of breaking into the 1st team squad in the next three years and prove to people that he was good enough to earn a contract. Physically he knows he has to develop but the way he is progressing already this year he may have to revisit these goals very soon.



Andy Frost, watch this face.

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ACADEMY REVIEW

2002/03
ZURICH U21 PREMIERSHIP

Gloucester U21 v Worcester

The Gloucester U21 side continued their fine form that sees them lying in second place in the U21 Zurich Premiership with an 8-0 win over local Midlands rivals Worcester last Friday night.

In appalling conditions the young Gloucester side took an early lead with an Andy Frost penalty and a try from second row Ben Hughes that owed much to the strength and power of the Gloucester forwards who drove him over the line.

After establishing this cushion so early in the game it was disappointing that Gloucester side were unable to add to this advantage and despite controlling much of the territory and possession they failed to capitalise on at least five good scoring opportunities.

However, despite this profligacy in attack the Gloucester side kept their hosts scoreless and on a night when the conditions could have acted as a definite leveller to secure another four points away from home could be crucial come the end of the season.

Gloucester U21 v New Zealand U21

Gloucester supporters were treated to a mini international last night as a touring New Zealand youth development squad played and beat a Gloucester side comprising of mainly U21 players.

It was a throw back to a bygone age when international teams would play British Clubs as warm up games before rare internationals.

The New Zealand side made up of U21 Super 12 and provincial players ran out winners of this enthralling contest after taking an early lead and never letting their grip on the match slip.

Kingsholm was treated to a pre-match Haka, as the young Kiwis laid down the gauntlet to the Gloucester side.

Some see it as an intimidatory tactic, others as part and parcel of New Zealand rugby.

The Kiwis first converted try came after just eight minutes from scrum half Heta, as he found himself on the blind side of a ruck and the Gloucester defence failed to cover. Despite the touch judges not awarding the 2 points for the conversion, and over-rule by referee, Chris White, gave the touring side a 7 - 0 lead.

The Kiwis added a further try from openside Gemmel, and a penalty, before two more scores in quick succession from their ever-impressive full back Moore, who touched down twice in a matter of minutes.

This was harsh on the home side who, lead by 1st team players Clive Stuart-Smith and Josh Frape, enjoyed their own flashes of brilliance, but Gloucester were unable to sustain the necessary pressure as the Kiwis were able to turn over the Gloucester ball almost at will. The main difference between the sides on the night was the control of the ball in contact areas. The Kiwis recycled well and stole a lot of good Gloucester ball.

Gloucester's first try came from recent 1st team squad member Rob Elloway, the Manchester born hooker from Sedbergh school being driven over by his fellow forwards. Stuart-Smith converted.

Rejuvenated by this score the Gloucester side dominated the latter phases of the first half. Under pressure the Kiwi number eight was sin binned for killing the ball but for all their determination Gloucester could not make the most of this

TEAM	P	W	D	L	B	PTS
LEICESTER TIGERS	9	9	0	0	7	43
GLOUCESTER	9	7	1	1	3	33
N'CASTLE FALCONS	9	5	1	3	7	29
BATH	10	6	0	4	3	27
LONDON WASPS	10	5	0	5	7	27
BRISTOL SHOGUNS	9	5	0	4	5	25
SALE JETS	6	4	0	2	3	19
N HAMPTON SAINTS	9	3	0	6	4	16
NEC HARLEQUINS	9	3	0	6	3	15
WORCESTER	9	2	0	7	6	14
LONDON IRISH	9	2	0	7	4	12
SARACENS	8	1	0	7	1	5

numerical advantage and ended the half 7-25 down.

Gloucester did score first in the second half, replacement Neil Hunter slotting a penalty. They added a further try after great hands from outside half Brad Davies. Davies put width on the ball and Stu Roberts was able to cut back inside to score. Hunter missed the conversion.

This parity was short lived however as the fleet footed Moore added notched up his hat trick score, which was converted, of the night after dummieing his way through the Gloucester defence.

Stuart-Smith once again lead the fight back but his mazy run was left unrewarded as Gloucester lost the ball in contact once again.

New Zealand added their sixth and final try from winger Heather, after good work from centre Wellington. Moore converted to complete a very impressive performance.

Gloucester though had the final say as Josh Frape's tireless defence was rewarded with a try. Gloucester finished the match strongly but the damage had already been done.

Carl Douglas will take many positives out of this result but errors in contact cost his side dear.

HEAD 2 HEAD

Jake Boer

Do you find that being Captain affects the way you approach games?

"I am fortunate that at this Club, I don't have to change my approach to games. I approach it exactly the same, we have lots of guys at Gloucester that are natural leaders, guys that make decisions, and all I have to do is make key decisions, say yes or know to the referee or we will do this or that. I just oversee the game plan and make sure everything runs smoothly. I often consult with the other guys on the pitch to get ideas and as a captain you have to get thoughts of people around you, especially if you are in the pack".

How would you describe your style of leadership, autocratic or democratic?

"A bit of both really. You have be able to say 'this is how we are going to do it' because, as a captain, you have to be able to make key decisions that could turn a game. But I am open to

any ideas on or off the pitch as to what we should do. There are some points in the game when you make a decision and have to back yourself, but lots of times you can consult with the guys around you".

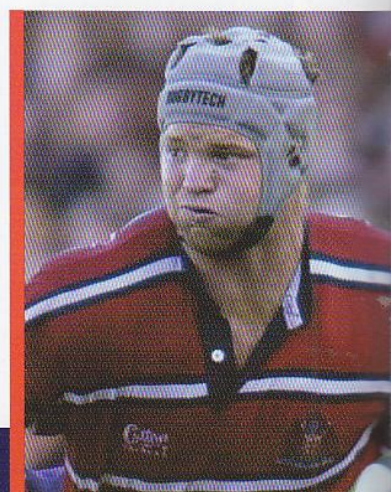
What makes a good captain?

"The most important thing is that you try to set a good example to the guys around you on and off the pitch. You have to get on with all the guys around and listen to their ideas. As captain I like to think I have the respect of the team and certainly I feel comfortable leading this team because the guys are behind me. But we have a lot of good players in the side and it is an honour to be able to captain this side. Coaches may see it differently but I think to be a captain you have to have natural ability to do it. You have to be comfortable making decisions and have a good knowledge of the game. But there is certainly a lot to learn as a

captain. Some are very talkative, others lead by example".

Boer on Strudwick

"I played with Ryan at Irish a few years ago and he is definitely got the qualities for a captain. He is a good man, he is a good team guy and a team player. He is a calm headed guy who makes good decisions and can lead by example. He plays consistently well and that is what a team needs, someone who is stable and that can make the decisions under pressure that can turn a game".



The Premiership form book continues to be anything but a guide to the season. Gloucester and London Irish have both played Leicester in the last fortnight, and while Gloucester (top) lost at Welford Road, Irish (bottom at the start of the match) won in front of their own

Nigel Melville and Dean Ryan must, of course, take enormous credit for Gloucester's position, and chiseling out results like the one at the Madjeski three weeks ago. The game was tight at half time, but "the management" changed the tactics in the second half and



PETER BUTLER
BBC RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE

supporters. The Exiles victory will surely mean they arrive at Fortress Kingsholm with their morale higher than at any stage during the season so far.

Amazingly, this is the last home Premiership match of the year, a year in which Gloucester have so far won all their first team fixtures at Kingsholm, the latest coming against Leeds last Sunday. It was an extremely hard fought game, tough and uncompromising at times, and ruled mainly by the defences of the two teams, but Gloucester emerged with a functional victory to further consolidate a position I for one would have been mightily pleased with had I been offered it at the start of the season.

The side is showing a resilience and collective belief in their abilities that is difficult not to get excited about. To see the experienced Junior Paramore start a driving move in his own 22, and then score a try moments later in the opposite corner shows the team working ability that is driving the Gloucester team relentlessly forward. The coaching team of

totally subdued the Exiles. Despite 2 yellow cards which left Gloucester playing for a quarter of the game a man short, there was a real desire and an underlying collective confidence that even Irish's talismanic player-coach Brendan Venter couldn't shake. Let's hope more of this fare is on the menu for us at Kingsholm today.

You may remember that I kicked the odd goal for Gloucester in those long ago amateur days [and yes I have thought what I would be worth now!!] but I would like to convey my ongoing admiration for the goal kicking ability of Ludovic Mercier. He was brought to Gloucester by Philippe Saint-Andre, and I believe his was a critical signing. The similarities between the French passion for their rugby and the verve that we see here at Kingsholm are very close, and the 55 metre kick that Mercier slotted against Leeds just before half time last Saturday sent all the locals into raptures. Forward play continues to be revered, and there's still arguably a bigger cheer for a pushover try than for a structured move

among the backs, but "Ludo" has become a lynch-pin. His general game has improved compared to when he was signed from Aurillac, and I believe he is perhaps the man Gloucester will want to keep fit more than any other for the rest of the season.

would have proudly claimed by a centre. At 26, he is in the form of his life.



Don't forget our text line during and after the game today. The footy fans still out-number the rugby supporters, and yet we have a real



"Phil Vickery was one of the real stars in England's three wins".

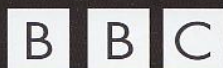
Finally, a word today for returning skipper Phil Vickery. He was one of the real stars in England's three wins over New Zealand, Australia and South Africa, and his run that helped create one of the second half tries - from memory the one finished by Richard Hill -

local and national success story here at Kingsholm. Don't be shy - give your opinions on 07786 20 14 13 - on what should hopefully be another Cherry & White victory.

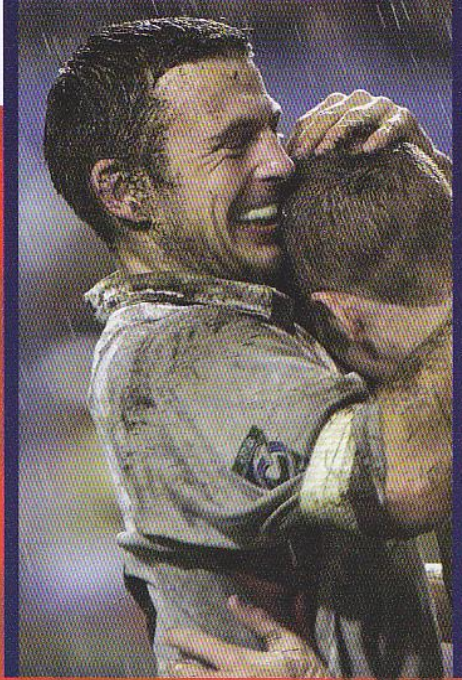
C'mon Glaws !

RADIO GLOUCESTERSHIRE

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FIRST FOR COVERAGE OF THE CHERRY & WHITES



PLAYER PROFILE

AMOR TO CAPTAIN ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD IN DUBAI AND SOUTH AFRICA

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Earlier this week England Sevens Coach, Joe Lydon announced his 12 man squad to take part in the first legs of the IRB Series 2002/03 season in Dubai on December 6th and 7th 2002 and George, South Africa on December 14th and 15th.

"These tournaments provide us with a great opportunity to see if we can build on the progress we made last year in one of the biggest and most prestigious legs of the IRB World Sevens Series. The management and players are really looking forward to it and we're hoping that we receive the same high level of support we've received there in the past", said Lydon.

Amongst the relative Zurich Premiership novices in the 12-man squad Lydon has asked Sevens specialist and captain of the victorious Hong Kong sevens squad from 2002, Simon Amor, to lead the side in the first two rubbers of the sevens season.

Amor has yet to break into the Gloucester 1st team squad this season, but the scintillating skills he showed in last season's IRB world sevens series as a Cambridge University undergraduate made him an automatic selection for this year's squad.

Such is the average age of this largely untried squad that twenty-three year old Amor admits to feeling a bit like the senior pro. What this side lacks in experience however, they make up for with sheer pace.

"This is a fantastic squad, brimming with talent. They are quite young but they are ridiculously quick. We played against virtually the same British Army side that won the Middlesex sevens two seasons ago and took them apart in the trial match", said the Gloucester back.

With the young look to this England side Amor feels that the selectors have the perfect opportunity to fast track some of the players singled out for further international honours later in the season.

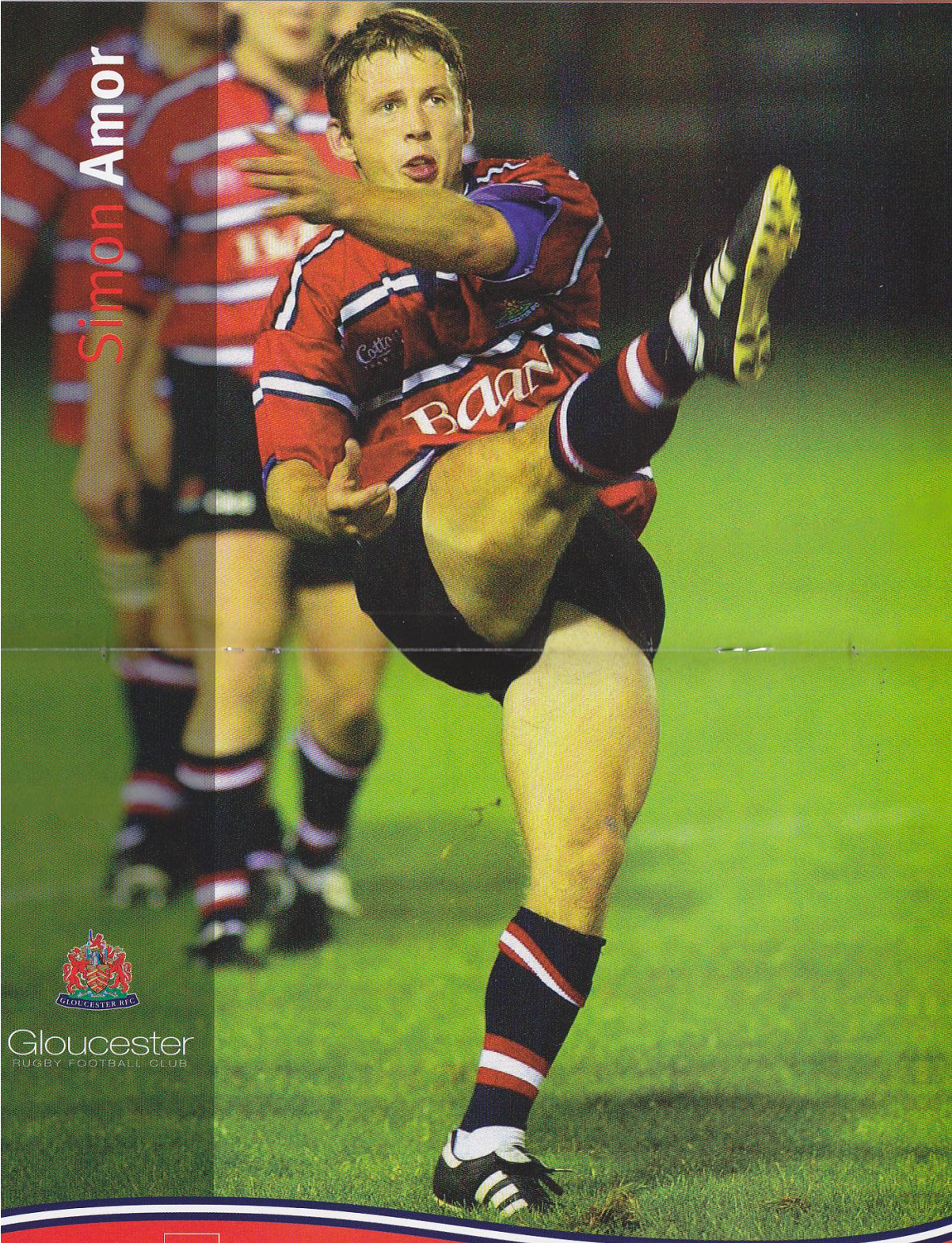
The Southern Hemisphere super powers have a good track record for identifying future stars and developing them in the shortened form of the game. Jonah Lomu and Christian Cullen are just two All Black World beaters that came to prominence in the New Zealand sevens side.

Last season recent Wallaby tourists Matt Rogers and Wendel Sailor were integral parts of the Australian sevens side and Ben Russel a second half Springbok substitute against England also made a name for himself on the sevens circuit.

"In the Southern Hemisphere the big three all have big name players that came through the sevens circuit", agrees Amor.

"I think there are definitely players in this side that can go on to gain further international honours. I think the selectors have an opportunity to identify players with the potential to play not just sevens but fifteen-a-side and fast-track them into the A team or full side", he adds. ►►

Simon Amor



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PLAYER PROFILE

Amor uses fellow Gloucester and sevens star James Simpson-Daniel as just one success story following his exploits in the Sevens side. Simpson-Daniel scored a match-winning hat-trick in Hong Kong for the sevens squad and six months later was starring on his debut for the full England side in the Autumn international against New Zealand.

Amor himself is also keen to develop from someone considered a sevens specialist to a fully-fledged fifteen-a-side international. Like cricketers who get pigeonholed as one-day specialists, some never shake the stigma and never reach their potential as a full test player.

Amor is very much a glass is half full type of person and doesn't let his sevens specialist tag worry him.

"I watched the tape of last weeks game. In fifteen-a-side games the wingers rarely make tackles and don't have to pass that much, certainly they don't get into rucks. In sevens there is nowhere to hide. You make two or three tackles a game, play six games a tournament and two tournaments in a fortnight. That is a lot of tackling. You have to pass and get involved in rucks and mauls. You have to be able to do everything. Some in this squad cant do it all but they will learn, they will certainly become better players", explains Amor.

Amor feels that part of his problem is that he has yet to find his best position. He has all the skills to play anywhere in a back line but sometimes a 'jack of all trades' tag can sometimes mean they become a master of none.

"I don't have a problem with this situation. I sit on the bench but I can cover a host of positions for possibly the best squad in Europe. I am ambitious but also a realist and see the strength of the players in the squad ahead of me. Ludovic is one of the best kickers in the Premiership. He is a huge asset to this side and Gomarsall is nearly the best scrum half in the country. I can see why Nigel is playing them ahead of me", says a very modest Amor.

Amor has though played in all of this year's United fixtures and has impressed immensely with displays at

both half back positions. His speed of hands and foot makes him a formidable opponent in the loose and he kicked some very good goals.

"Playing for the United was very enjoyable. Sevens develops your skills but my commitment is to Gloucester first and foremost. At the moment I can commit to the sevens circuit but as my involvement in the Zurich Premiership increases something may have to give".

"I can understand why some players are frustrated at not playing but you have to weigh up the pros and cons. You may get a more regular game playing for another team or you might play less for the best team in the country".

As for being the best Amor has high hopes for this present crop of sevens youngsters. England completed the IRB Series last season ranked in third place, their best ever finish in the competition. The squad won the Hong Kong tournament for the first time and were the Plate winners at the Manchester 2002 Commonwealth Games.

Amor though feels that the current squad can go even better.

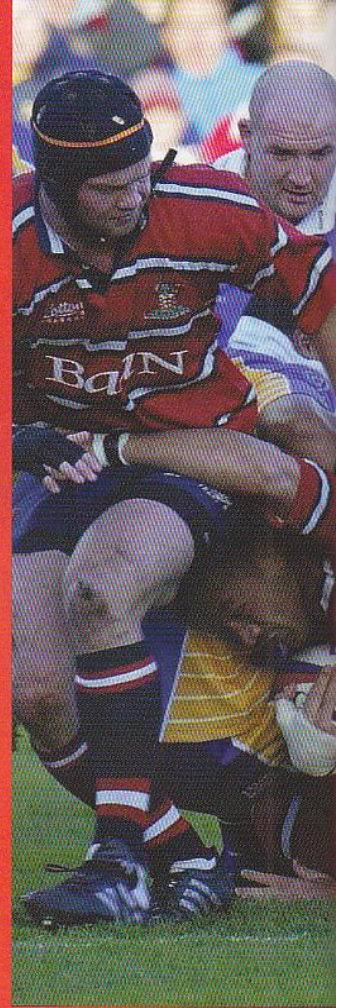
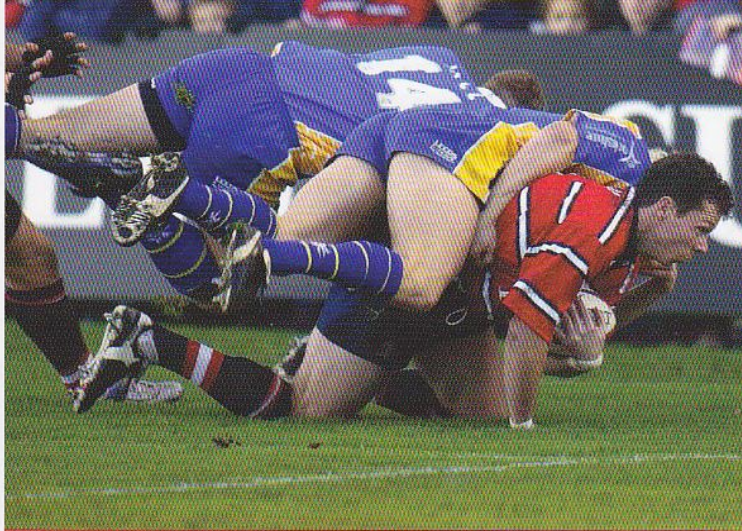
"I think we can win a few more tournaments this year and really push the All Blacks for the number one ranking spot"

England face Canada, Wales and Zimbabwe in their pool group in the Dubai leg of the IRB Series. ■

ENGLAND SEVENS SQUAD

Simon Amor (Captain) Gloucester	Ryan Peacey Saracens
Matt Cannon London Irish	Ben Russell Saracens
Ben Gollings NEC Harlequins	Paul Sampson London Wasps
Richard Haughton Saracens	Rob Thirby Bath
Jonathan Hylton London Wasps	STAND BY
Rob Laird London Wasps	Phil Dowson Newcastle Falcons
Magnus Lund Sharks	Paul Hodgson Bristol Shoguns
Chris Mayor Sharks	Ugo Monye NEC Harlequins





KINGSHOLM SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2002



GLOUCESTER 28

TRIES: BOER, PARAMORE, TODD

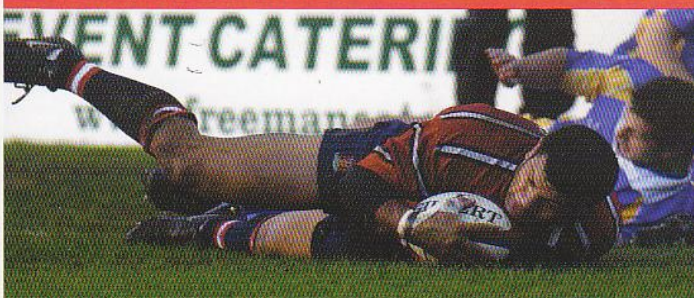
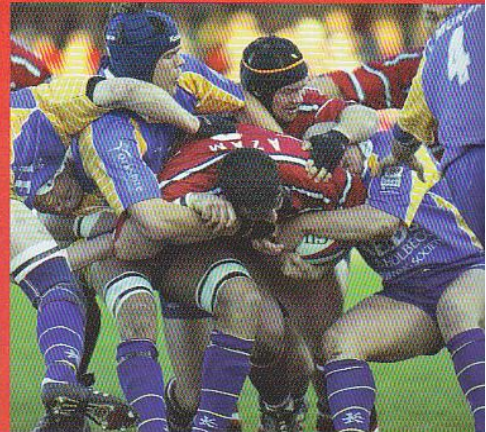
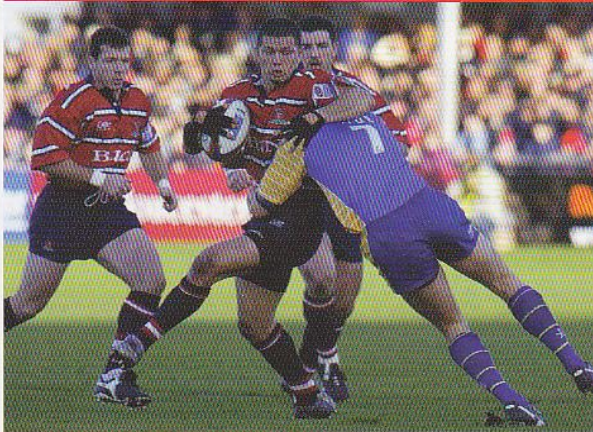
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TRIES: EMMERSON

CONVERSIONS: VAN STRAATEN PENALTIES: VAN STRAATEN



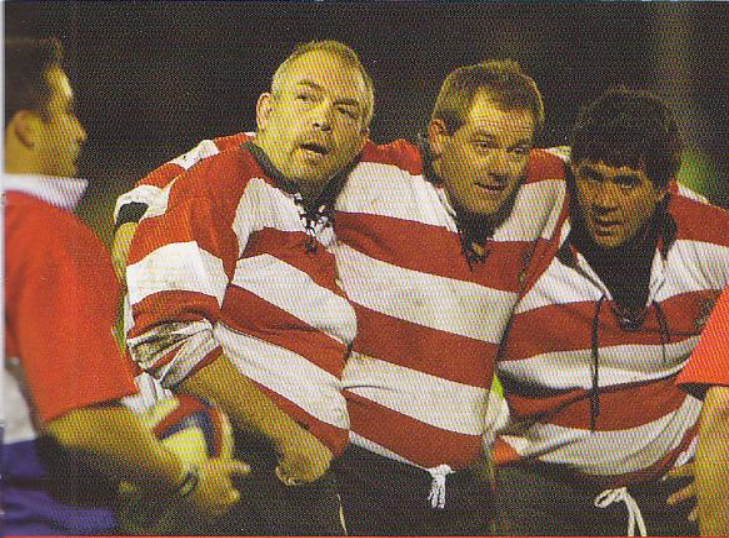
(Top Left) Tom Beim is stopped just short of the try line.

(Top Right) Junior Paramore ploughs forward with the assistance of Jake Boer

(Middle Left) Henry Paul is held by Leeds Dan Hyde.

(Middle Right) Olivier Azam is held back by the Leeds pack.

(Bottom Left) Robert Todd scores his second half try.



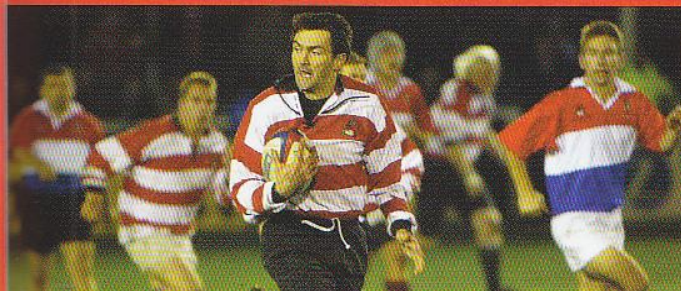
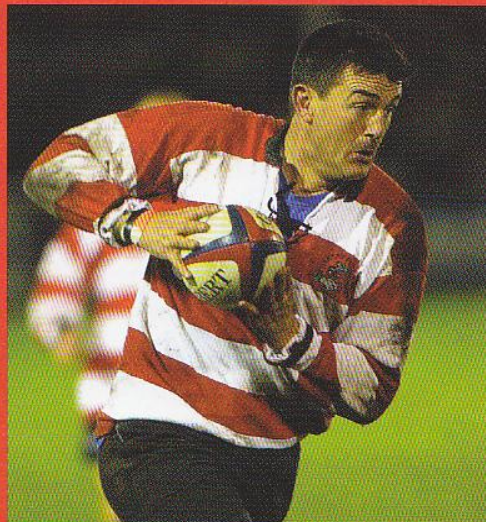
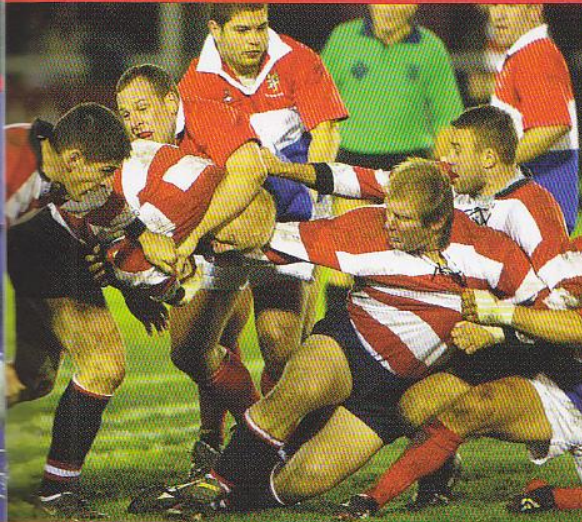
KINGSHOLM SUNDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2002



CHERRY PICKERS 43



CZECH REPUBLIC 49



(Top Left) Cherry Pickers left to right Richard Pascal, Glynn Mann and Malcolm Preedy.

(Top Right) Ian Smith.

(Middle Left) Cherry Pickers left to right Simon Devereaux, Pete Glanville, Peter Winterbottom and Mark Roberts.

(Middle Right) Larry Cummings.

(bottom Left) Simon Morris.

Fans Eye View

With Bob Fenton

Here we go then, the second of three home games in a row, and the second against London Irish in three weeks.

Having almost back-to-back home and away games kind of makes you wonder what the particularly bright individuals who plan our fixtures are smoking when they sit down to draw them up.

That's not to say that they have not done a bit of a better job than previous seasons, but the concept of a home game one week, followed by an away game the week after, still seems to escape them. Is it really that difficult to work out? It's can't be that hard if the boys in the round ball game can manage it, and we all know how mentally challenged they are...

The other thing the fixture schedulers fail to take into consideration is the expense involved of playing back-to-back home games before Christmas. Not the financial expense (though that's bad enough at around £2.50 a pint times loads) but the price to be paid by the constant drawing of pass-outs on the home front. In the run up to Christmas this means only one thing - having to do the Christmas shopping!

This is more than grown men can stand, especially when she-who-must-be-obeyed refuses to partake in the delights of doing it all via the internet. I mean, what is the difference between a PS2 game obtained from Amazon.com and the very same one obtained from Argos? Lots, apparently. Okay a quid or two, but for the pleasure of not leaving the house it's well worth the little bit of extra dosh.

Pushing water uphill is an easier task than convincing her though, so if you are looking for me on a Saturday morning, look for the glum-faced sod being dragged

around Toys 'R' Us or some other hell purporting to be a shop!

All this talk of Christmas though means that the time is right to start thinking about those less fortunate than ourselves (no not Bath supporters), people in our own ranks who are clearly struggling for warm winter clothes.

I mean, of course, Kingsholm's very own needy case, Ed Archer. I know Ed and he's a really good bloke, knows his stuff and is - with the exception of a couple of players - one of the longest serving people to be found on the staff at Castle Grim. What is clear, though, is that he is not being paid enough money.

How do we know this - it's obvious: the poor bloke can't afford a pair of decent warm winter trousers. Week in, week out he's there, whatever the weather, running around with kicking tees, bottles of water, kit bags etc, all in a pair of skimpy shorts that look like they are relics from those crazy, almost skin-tight, things certain footballers used to wear in the late 70's.

Last week things were so bad it looked for a moment like he wasn't wearing any at all (calm down ladies) under his jacket. Fortunately he was though, and his modesty spared.

You watch out for him today, it may well be freezing cold and you will be wrapped up in replica shirt, fleece top, warm coat and, most importantly, long trousers. Ed will be manfully toiling away in his little black shorts. So now I am officially launching 'Archer-Aid'. We all put our hands in our pockets for the Czech rugby fund, now is the time to find a few coppers to send the poor lad down to Matalan to get some decent strides. Chin up, Ed - we're here for you. (Nb if you are reading this, Ed - I am now officially hiding from you!)



ZURICH

Talking of unsung heroes, a word must go to the Academy lads who run the little sessions on the pitch for kids from local schools each week. Chatting to my mate Steve while watching our respective juniors toiling away for Hucclecote Under 9's last Sunday morning, he told me that his lad's school was one of the ones chosen.

Not only do the kids get to run around on the Kingsholm turf before kick off, they also get a visit from the Academy lads who run training sessions at their schools. Steve told me how excited his lad was, and how much of an impact the visit had had on them.

No doubt the Academy boys are obliged to do these sessions under the terms of their contracts, but they obviously enjoy it and this enthuses the youngsters. Not only do ventures like these secure the supporters of tomorrow, they also inspire the youngsters to play the game. Well done boys, a great community venture.

And finally it's time to report one of the greatest quips ever heard from the shed - and there have been many to choose from - and two of the greatest moments seen on the pitch. Both came during the Cherry Pickers match last Sunday.

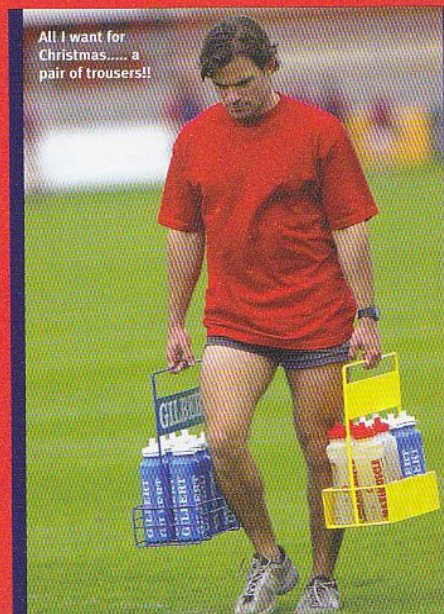
Firstly as Stuart Barnes was saying '... and here comes a load more replacements for the Cherry Pickers...' a very loud voice yelled "Don't worry Cherry Pickers - your hip replacements will be on soon!"

Towards the end of the game I think there were 23 players on the Cherry Pickers side (and well done Duncan

Murray for trying to lower the age profile a bit). Getting the ball away to the wings had all the hallmarks of a pass the parcel game at a particularly demented children's party. Or did I miss something and was it another Children In Need style pass-the-rugby-ball event?

And the greatest moment has to be that scourge of the wing Nick Price stopping and lighting a fag when play was miles away from him then - when the ball came towards him - handing the cigarette to the touch judge to go off and do his job.

Only at Kingsholm...



Peter Arnold

STUART BARNES WAS RIGHT!

The Bull certainly raged last Saturday, and I imagine few people would disagree with Stuart Barnes' decision to give Phil Vickery his Man of the Match award for his storming display for England against South Africa.

In announcing his decision, 'Barnesy' described it as "a gratuitous attempt to ingratiate myself with the Shed before our visit to Kingsholm tomorrow". If that really was his ploy, then it didn't really work bearing the reception he got as he walked past the Shed on the way to his commentary position for the Leeds game. It was all very good-natured, of course, and the jeers turned to cheers as he had enough nous to wave to the crowd on his way past.

We're a bit hard on him sometimes, as we used to be on Nigel Starmer Smith in the old days. The difference is that Stuart knows the Kingsholm scene very well indeed, having endured the slings and arrows of outrageous Shedheads on numerous occasions, as both player and commentator.

Oddly, Phil Vickery's magnum of champagne was still intact on Sunday. He's apparently saving it for a special occasion, although he's not saying what that is likely to be.

Did you notice, by the way, that some of Phil's most dangerous incursions into Springbok ranks took place after Andy Gommersall took the field? That might

not be entirely coincidental: they do, after all, know each other's little foibles rather well, and probably don't even have to think to know where the other is likely to be on any given occasion.

We mustn't forget 'Gommers' contribution, either. He did, after all, land a couple of good conversions, and looked very much the part following a hard act such as Matt Dawson has been in the autumn series.

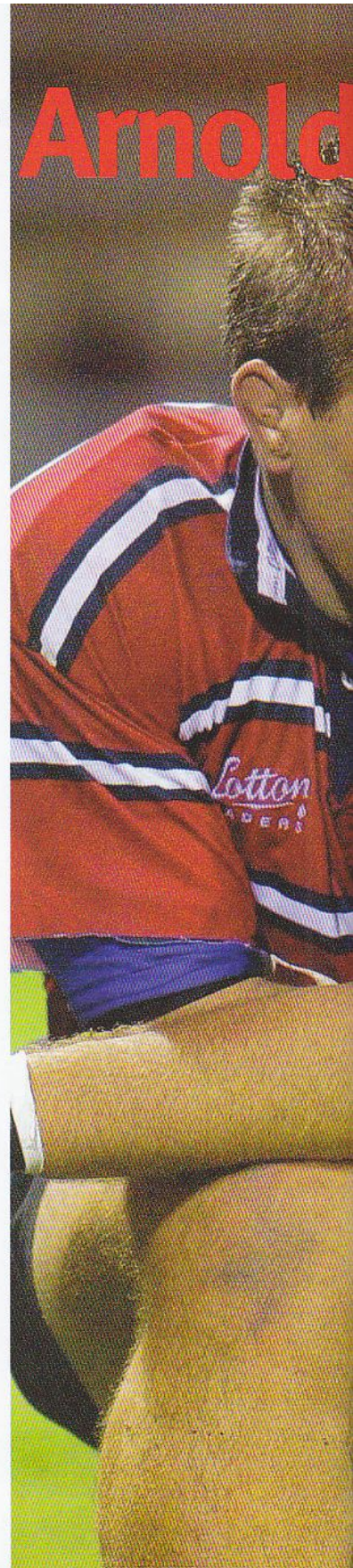
Well done both! It's just a crying shame that Trevor Woodman and James Simpson Daniel weren't able to be part of the South African rout.

ABLE DEPUTIES

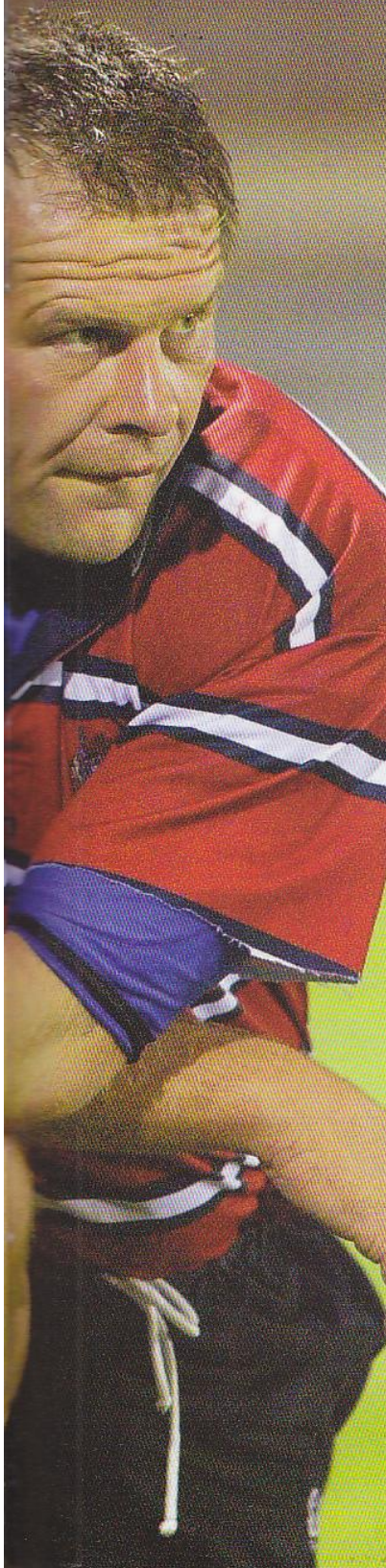
To have taken ten Premiership points while our England contingent was unavailable to us is a considerable achievement, and a great deal of credit for that must go to the able replacements we have in the front row. Roncero grows into the role week by week, and what is there more to say about Andy Deacon? Many clubs would be pleased to have that pair as their first-choice prop combination every week.

No one should be surprised by 'Deaks' of course. What he lacks in youth he makes up for in experience and sheer low cunning. His pass to put Jake Boer over and open the try scoring in the Leeds game was sheer magic.

Don't hang up your boots yet, Andy. We'll need you over the World Cup period.



"Don't hang up your boots yet, Andy. We'll need you over the World Cup period".



THE WORST LUCK IMAGINABLE

The news of James Simpson-Daniel's illness reached me just after I had submitted my copy for the Leeds programme, which was a pity. However, it did mean that I'd be able to devote more time and space to the matter than I would otherwise have done.

The first thought is - what else can happen to the poor bloke? He missed his chance of a Championship winners medal last season through a freak foot injury sustained while playing for England against the Barbarians. That problem also kept him out of England's highly successful tour of Argentina, where, knowing what we know now, we can confidently state he would have been a huge success.

He then makes his full England debut against the toughest imaginable opposition, New Zealand and Australia, where he stunned all impartial observers by making three (some would say four) tries. Then he goes and contracts glandular fever.

At least his earlier bad luck stemmed from a 'proper' rugby injury, but to follow that up by catching a fairly unusual disease like this is the worst luck imaginable. That being so, I thought I should learn a bit more about it.

All I knew beforehand was that it is a highly debilitating disease which can take a lot of shaking off. Indeed, I know one chap who reckoned that it was a full year before he shook off the full effects of his dose of the ailment.

Fortunately, a little research revealed that that is an extreme case. As a supremely fit young athlete, James should be able to cope reasonably quickly. Indeed, it is a matter for amazement that he was able to play against Australia at all, having apparently started to suffer several

days beforehand. Imagine what might have happened if he had been thoroughly fit!

Glandular fever, known medically as 'infective mononucleosis', is a viral disease, so antibiotics aren't any use in combating it, although they might have a role to play in fighting any secondary infections which might arise as a result of the body's natural resistance being lowered by the disease. Apparently, the virus can spread to virtually any gland in the body, causing general tiredness and a feeling of being ill without being able to pinpoint the cause.

Not nice at all. Rather like a very bad dose of flu. The only real treatment is rest and lots of it, until the body deals with the invading virus itself. The doctor I spoke to recommended staying indoors for four full weeks before attempting to do anything very much.

All we can do, is wish young James the best of luck, and implore him not to let his natural instincts tempt him into trying to come back too soon. He'll have plenty more chances to stun the world with his wizardry.

Just one more thing. Apparently, glandular fever is often transmitted by mouth, and is therefore sometimes known as 'the kissing disease'. Sinbad! What have you been up to?

WHISKERLESS

I see that our old mate, Mike Price, Town crier of Tewkesbury and self-style President of the West End Tumpers Association has sacrificed his trademark sideboards and moustachios in the cause of charity.

Well, at least the chaps standing behind him will be able to see the game a bit more easily.

Investec Intern



With a victory against the Springboks last weekend England ensured that they enjoyed a very successful Autumn international series against the Southern Hemisphere 'Super Powers' and saw them rocket to number one in the Zurich International league table.

In all Gloucester provided six players to the thirty-man squad for the international series but while Vickery, Woodman, Simpson-Daniel and Gomarsall all featured at some point youngsters James Forrester and Marcel Garvey will have to wait a little longer to make their debut on the World Stage.

Phil Vickery enhanced his reputation as one of the best tight-head props in the game and Andy Gomarsall continued his rise to international prominence by winning his ninth international cap.

Trevor Woodman started his first full international for England whilst James Simpson-Daniel made a belated debut on the international scene. The performances of both players, before injury and illness robbed them of further glory, will surely guarantee their international future.

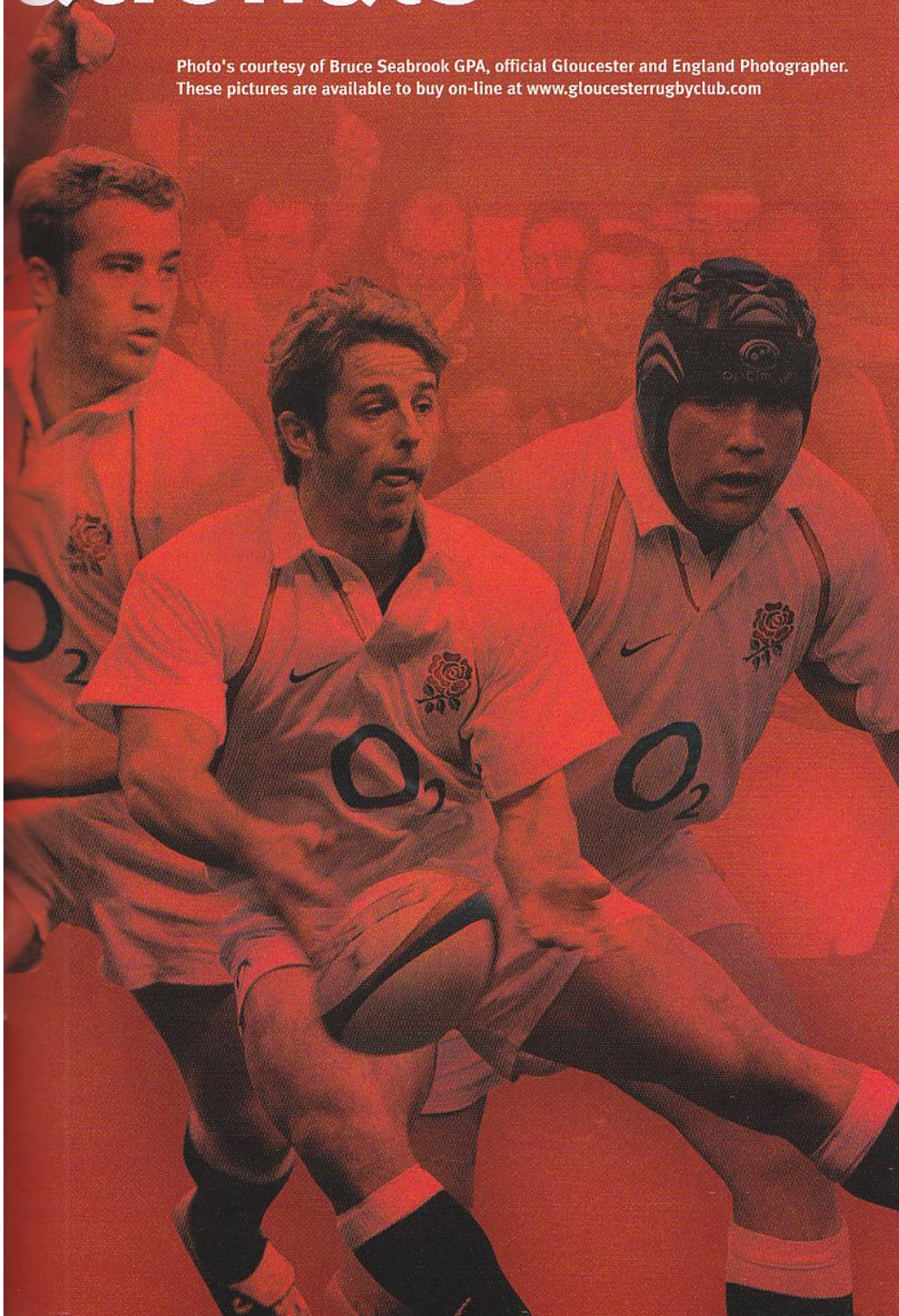
First up England had to withstand a fierce barrage from the All Blacks headed up by their nemesis Jonah Lomu, and whilst the giant Kiwi winger scored twice, with the All Blacks adding two more tries from Doug Howlett and scrum half Danny Lee, three tries from Moody, Cohen and Wilkinson, to add to the mercurial fly halves sixteen points with the boot were enough to win the day.

Next up came the World Champion wallabies. Stung by a loss to Ireland a week earlier, the Aussies were keen to end England's sixteen match unbeaten run at Twickenham. England bossed the first half but after a twenty-five-point turnaround either side of half time, England were forced to play catch up rugby. Exceptional cool headedness from Jonny Wilkinson, in front of goal, and two-cap novice James Simpson-Daniel, whose slight of hand made the winning try for Ben Cohen, saw England home by the narrowest of margins 32-31.

The Springboks were the last Southern Hemisphere giant to be dispatched this autumn as a rampant England side rang amok on their way to their eighteenth consecutive victory on Twickenham's luscious turf. A brace of tries from Will Greenwood, to add to another score from Cohen and a try a piece from Back, Hill and Dallaglio as well as a second half penalty try helped England to a record 53-03 score against the fourteen man Springboks.

ationals

Photo's courtesy of Bruce Seabrook GPA, official Gloucester and England Photographer.
These pictures are available to buy on-line at www.gloucesterrugbyclub.com



WWW.GLOUCESTERRUGBYCLUB.COM



GLOUCESTER

Henry Paul	15
Thinus Delpont	14
Terry Fanolua	13
Robert Todd	12
Tom Beim	11
Ludovic Mercier	10
Andy Gomarsall	09

Rodrigo Roncero	01
Olivier Azam	02
Andy Deacon	03
Rob Fidler	04
Mark Cornwell	05
James Forrester	06
(c) Jake Boer	07
Junior Paramore	08

Chris Catling	16
Clive Stuart-Smith	17
Marcel Garvey	18
Rob Elloway	19
Phil Vickery	20
Adam Eustace	21
Pete Buxton	22



LONDON IRISH

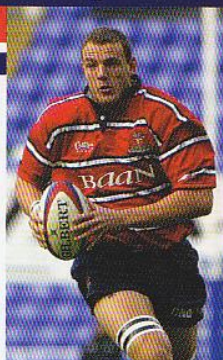
Michael Horak	15
Paul Sackey	14
Nick Burrows	13
Brendan Venter	12
Justin Bishop	11
Barry Everitt	10
Darren Edwards	09

Mike Worsley	01
Naka Drotske	02
Simon Halford	03
Ryan Strudwick (c)	04
Nick Kennedy	05
Paul Gustard	06
Declan Danaher	07
Chris Sheasby	08

Kevin Barrett	16
Mark Mapletoft	17
James Cockle	18
Adrian Flavin	19
Glenn Delaney	20
Neal Hatley	21
Rob Hardwick	22

ZURICH PREMIERSHIP 2002/03

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	TB	LB	PTS
Gloucester	11	8	1	2	318	180	4	2	40
Sharks	11	7	1	3	281	260	3	1	34
Leeds Tykes	11	7	2	2	286	233	0	1	33
Leicester Tigers	11	7	0	4	231	184	2	1	31
Northampton Saints	11	6	0	5	245	198	2	2	28
London Wasps	11	4	2	5	279	275	3	3	26
Saracens	11	5	0	6	266	312	2	0	22
NEC Harlequins	10	4	0	6	222	244	2	3	21
Bath Rugby	11	3	2	6	194	252	0	2	18
Bristol Shoguns	10	3	1	6	263	298	2	1	17
London Irish	11	3	1	7	238	280	1	2	17
Newcastle Falcons	11	3	0	8	205	312	1	3	16



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GLOUCESTER'S NEXT THREE MATCHES

PERPIGNAN
 Heineken Cup
 Sunday 8th Dec 2002
 Kingsholm KO 1.15pm (eurosport)
 Ticket Hotline: 0871 871 8781

PERPIGNAN
 Heineken Cup
 Saturday 14th Dec 2002
 Stade Aime Giral KO 3.00pm
 On Sale At Kingsholm from Monday
 25th November Tel: 0871 871 87 81

LONDON WELSH OR EXETER
 Powergen Cup
 Saturday 21st Dec 2002
 Kingsholm KO 3.00pm
 Ticket Hotline: 0871 871 8781



THIS WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

Friday 29 November 2002
 Sharks vs Bath Rugby

Saturday 30 November 2002
 Gloucester vs London Irish
 NEC Harlequins vs Saracens
 Leicester Tigers vs N'hampton Saints

Sunday 1 December 2002
 Leeds Tykes vs London Wasps
 N'castle Falcons vs Bristol Shoguns

Ref!Link
TODAY'S MATCH OFFICIALS

Referee: Roy Maybank RFU
 1st TJ: Martin Fox RFU
 2nd TJ: Huw Jones-Williams RFU